Plutonium-based fast breeder reactor

2320. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to install country's first plutonium-based commercial fast breeder reactor in the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research Complex at Kalpakkam near Chennai;

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof; and

(c) whether installation of the breeder reactor is likely to assist generation of additional energy resources and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for administrative approval and project financial sanction for setting up of a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu is under process with the Government of India.

(b) and (c) A three stage Nuclear Power Programme has been envisaged by the Department of Atomic Energy, right from its inception. With the construction of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR), the first stage of the Indian nuclear power programme has attained a level of maturity. At present, the Department proposes to launch the second stage of setting up of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) for power generation. This stage is based on Plutonium fuelled reactors with depleted uranium as the blanket. The PFBR will add 500 MWe of nuclear power generation capacity to the Southern Grid.

Post offices in U.P.

†2321. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of post offices in Uttar Pradesh and post offices which are being operated from rented houses; and

(b) the existing number of villages in the State where post offices may be set up as per rule and by when post offices would be set up in all such villages?

† Origlnal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Presently there are 17627 post offices In Uttar Pradesh of which 2540 are Departmental Post Offices. Out of these Departmental Post Offices, 2253 are being operated from rented accommodation.

(b) During 2002-2003, it is targeted to open 19 post offices in Uttar Pradesh. Post offices are opened subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

Monthly rental of Thapakhera Exchange

†2322. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly rental for Ambedkar Gram Thapakhera rural telephone exchange having the capacity of 1,000 to 3,000 lines;

(b) the basis for declaring the monthly rental of the exchange having the capacity of 1000 to 29,999 lines as Rs. 120 though in the Directory, it is Rs. 100;

(c) the basis for charging a monthly rental of Rs. 250 on Exchange system having the capacity of 100000 and more lines, though its monthly rent has been given Rs. 210 in the Directory; and

(d) whether the existing charge is based on the rural and urban classification and exchange capacity and if not, on what basis the monthly rental of Rs. 120/- has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is no telephone exchange in Ambedkar Gram Thapakhera. This village is being served from the Delta Exchange, which is situated in Ghaziabad, SDCA with an equipped capacity of more than 1 lakh lines. Hence, rental for telephones in Thapakhera is applicable to a rural area parented to an urban exchange (Delta) with more than 1 lakh lines in equipped capacity. The following rental and tariff is charged from subscribers of the village Thapakhera.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hind.